

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CONAKR 00558 211209Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----070418 211216Z /16

P 211040Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CONAKRY
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4128
INFO AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE PRIORITY

S E C R E T CONAKRY 0558

EXDIS

YAOUNDE FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARROP, AMBASSADOR
OLIVER S. CROSBY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MILI, PEPR, GV, US
SUBJECT: PATROL BOATS FOR GUINEA

REF: (A) 77 CONAKRY 2109 (NOTAL), (B) 77 CONAKRY 2006 (NOTAL),
(C) STATE 248526 (NOTAL), (D) CONAKRY 0362 (NOTAL)

1. PRIMIN'S CABINET DIRECTOR ALPHA IBRAHIMA DIALLO TOLD
CHARGE THAT PRIMIN WILL SOON RAISE ANEW HIS REQUEST
OF LAST JUNE MADE DURING VISIT TO US THAT US PROVIDE
GUINEA WITH SIX PATROL CRAFT.

2. DIALLO SAID GOG HOPED THAT US HAD BEEN CONSIDERING
GOG'S REQUEST CAREFULLY. PRIMIN HIMSELF HAD GONE OUT
ON LIMB WITH GUINEAN NAVY AND "OTHERS" REGARDING
PROSPECTS FOR US EQUIPMENT. DIALLO REITERATED THAT
MAIN MISSION OF CRAFT WOULD BE DEFENSIVE, NON-BELLIGERENT:
SURVEILLANCE OF GUINEAN WATERS AGAINST ILLEGAL FISHING
VIOLATORS. LACK OF ACTION ON REQUEST, DIALLO ADDED, WAS
BLOCKING SERIES OF "OTHER DECISIONS" WHICH GOG NEEDED
TO TAKE. GOG HAD TO KNOW SOON WHAT US HAD DECIDED.

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DIALLO THEN STATED: "WITHOUT CREDIBLE NATIONAL COASTAL
PATROL FORCE RATIONALE FOR RETAINING SOVIET NAVAL PRE-
SENCE IN GUINEA CANNOT BE AVOIDED. THIS IS WHY GUINEA
WANTS ITS OWN PATROL BOATS".

3. COMMENT: DIALLO'S REMARKS INDICATE WE MAY BE COMING
TO ANOTHER IMPORTANT DECISION POINT AFFECTING GUINEA'S

RELATIONS WITH USSR AND WEST. PROVISION OF PATROL CRAFT -- WHICH WOULD BREAK SOVIET ARMS MONOPOLY IN GUINEA FOR FIRST TIME -- COULD BE MADE A POWERFUL INCENTIVE FOR BETTER GUINEAN HUMAN RIGHTS PERFORMANCE AND A MEANS TO ERODE AND DIMINISH SOVIET POSITION IN GUINEA AND WEST AFRICA. NOT PROVIDING BOATS COULD JEOPARDIZE US UNDERSTANDING WITH SEKOU TOURE THAT NO SOVIET TU-95 FLIGHTS WILL BE PERMITTED THROUGH GUINEA. BUT IF IN FACT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR DEPARTMENT TO FIND WAY OF SATISFYING GOG'S REQUEST EVEN PARTIALLY, THIS YEAR'S LARGE US FOOD AID PACKAGE (STATE 069303) ALLOWS US TO BREAK NEWS TO GOG AT RELATIVELY FAVORABLE MOMENT.

4. GUIDANCE IS REQUESTED IN CASE PRIMIN CHOOSES TO REVIVE PATROL CRAFT ISSUE.
MAINLAND

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

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